

IN THE CLAIMS:

Revise the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A fastening device, comprising:

a first component member including a plurality of threads of a female screw formed on an inner peripheral wall of said first component member and each of said thread threads of the first component member having a predetermined lead angle; and

a second component member having an open end portion porting, said component member and including a plurality of threads of a male screw formed on an outer peripheral wall of said open end portion so as to engage with the threads of said first component member, and each of said thread at least one of the threads of said second component member having a predetermined extending along its length at a first lead angle and at least one of the threads of said second component member extending along its length at a second lead angle, the first and second lead angles being different and the first lead angle being the same as the predetermined lead angle of the threads of the first component member,

said first and second component members being formed of an elastic material, at least one but not all of the threads of said second component member having a different lead angle from the lead angle of the threads of said first component member,

wherein when said first and second component members are moved closer from a first relative position to a second relative position, said threads of the first and second component members are engaged with each other, and after said threads of both of the first and second component members engage, said threads are elastically deformed by each other by moving said threads at a distance, and said first and second component members are fixed in the second

position while maintaining their engaged relationship by the frictional engagement of the threads differing in said lead angle.

2-5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) The fastening device according to claim 1, wherein each of said first and second component members includes an even number of threads.

7. (Previously Presented) The fastening device according to claim 1, wherein when the threads on the inner wall of said first component member are engaged with the threads formed at the open end portion of said second component member, the inner ceiling surface of said first component member is brought into contact with the surface of said open end portion of said second component member defining the opening.

8-10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) The fastening device ~~for two component members~~ according to claim 1, wherein the difference between the predetermined lead angle of the threads of said first component member and the ~~different~~ second lead angle of the at least one ~~but not all~~ of the threads of said second component member is from about 1° to about 2°.

12. (Currently Amended) The fastening device ~~for two component members~~ according to claim 1, wherein the difference between the predetermined lead angle of the threads of said first component member and the ~~different~~ second lead angle of the at least one ~~but not all~~ of the threads of said second component member is at least about 1°.

13. (Currently Amended) The fastening device ~~for two component members~~ according to claim 1, wherein the difference between the predetermined lead angle of the threads of said first component member and the ~~different~~ second lead angle of the at least one ~~but not all~~ of the threads of said second component member is less than about 2°.

14. (Currently Amended) The fastening device ~~for two component members~~ according to claim 1, wherein the difference between the predetermined lead angle of the threads of said first component member and the ~~different~~ second lead angle of the at least one ~~but not all~~ of the threads of said second component member is about 1.5°.

15-20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for~~ of fastening a first component member serving as a lid and a second component member serving as a cylindrical container having an open end portion, said first component member being a lid for said open end portion, said first component member including an even number of threads of a female screw formed on an inner peripheral

wall of said lid and each of the threads of the first component member having a predetermined lead angle, and said second component member including an even number of threads of a male screw formed on an outer peripheral wall of said open end portion so as to engage with the threads of said first component member and at least one of the threads of said second component member extending along its length at a first lead angle and at least one of the threads of said second component member extending along its length at a second lead angle, the first and second lead angles being different and the first lead angle being the same as the predetermined lead angle of the threads of the first component member.

said first and second component members being formed of an elastic material, ~~at least one but not all of the threads of said second component member having a different lead angle from the lead angle of the threads of said first component member,~~ the fastening method comprising the steps of:

moving said first and second component members to a first relative position where said threads of the component members are engaged with each other; and

moving said first and second component members from the first relative position to a second relative position so that said threads are elastically deformed as a result of their engagement with each other,

whereby said first and second component members are fastened to each other by the frictional engagement of said threads.

22. (Currently Amended) The fastening device ~~for two component members~~ according to claim 6, wherein threads of the second component member that extend at the first lead angle

alternate within the second component member with threads that extend at the second lead angle
said different lead angle of said even threads of said second component member is alternately
formed therein.

23. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for~~ of fastening a first component member serving
as a lid and a second component member serving as a cylindrical container having an open end
portion, said first component member being a lid for said open end portion, said first component
member including an even number of threads of a female screw formed on an inner peripheral
wall of said lid and at least one of the threads of said first component member extending along its
length at a first lead angle and at least one of the threads of said first component member
extending along its length at a second lead angle, the first and second lead angles being different
each having a predetermined lead angle, and said second component member including an even
number of threads of a male screw formed on an outer peripheral wall of said open end portion
so as to engage with the threads of said first component member and each of the threads of the
second component member having a predetermined lead angle that is the same as the first lead
angle of said at least one of the threads of said first component member,

said first and second component members being formed of an elastic material, ~~at least one~~
~~but not all of the threads of said first component member having a different lead angle from the~~
~~lead angle of the threads of said second component member,~~ the fastening method comprising the
steps of:

moving said first and second component members to a first relative position where said
threads of the component members are engaged with each other; and

moving said first and second component members from the first relative position to a second relative position so that said threads are elastically deformed as a result of their engagement with each other,

whereby said first and second component members are fastened to each other by the frictional engagement of said threads.

24. (Currently Amended) A fastening device, comprising:

a first component member, including a plurality of threads of a female screw formed on an inner peripheral wall of said first component member, at least one of the threads of said first component member extending along its length at a first lead angle and at least one of the threads of said first component member extending along its length at a second lead angle, the first and second lead angles being different and ~~each said thread having a predetermined lead angle;~~ and

a second component member having an open end ~~portion~~ porting, ~~said component member and~~ including a plurality of threads of a male screw formed on an outer peripheral wall of said open end portion so as to engage with the threads of said first component member, and each of said ~~thread~~ threads of said second component member having a predetermined lead angle that is the same as the first lead angle of said at least one of the threads of said first component member,

said first and second component members being formed of an elastic material, ~~at least one but not all of the threads of said second component member having a different lead angle from the lead angle of the threads of said first component members,~~

wherein when said first and second component members are moved closer from a first relative position to a second relative position, said threads of the first and second component members are engaged with each other, and after said threads of ~~both of the~~ first and second component members engage, said threads are elastically deformed by each other by moving said threads at a distance, and said first and second component members are fixed in the second position while maintaining their engaged relationship by the frictional engagement of the threads differing in said lead angle.

25. (Previously Presented) The fastening device according to claim 24, wherein each of said first and second component members includes an even number of threads.

26. (Previously Presented) The fastening device according to claim 24, wherein when the threads on the inner wall of said first component member are engaged with the threads formed at the open end portion of said second component member, the inner ceiling surface of said first component member is brought into contact with the surface of said open end portion of said second component member defining the opening.

27. (Currently Amended) The fastening device according to claim 24, wherein the difference between the predetermined lead angle of the threads of said second component member and the different second lead angle of the at least one ~~but not all~~ of the threads of said first component member is from about 1° to about 2°.

28. (Currently Amended) The fastening device according to claim 24, wherein the difference between the predetermined lead angle of the threads of said second component member and the ~~different~~ second lead angle of the at least one ~~but not all~~ of the threads of said first component member is at least about 1°.

29. (Currently Amended) The fastening device according to claim 24, wherein the difference between the predetermined lead angle of the threads of said second component member and the ~~different~~ second lead angle of the at least one ~~but not all~~ of the threads of said first component member is less than about 2°.

30. (Currently Amended) The fastening device according to claim 24, wherein the difference between the predetermined lead angle of the threads of said second component member and the ~~different~~ second lead angle of the at least one ~~but not all~~ of the threads of said first component member is about 1.5°.

31. (Canceled).

32. (Canceled).